

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Some New Facts About the Migration of Birds. By Wells W. Cooke. Reprint from Yearbook of Department of Agriculture for 1903.

In this interesting paper Professor Cooke discusses anew 'Causes of migration,' 'How do birds find their way,' 'Casualties during migration,' 'Distance of migration,' 'Routes of migration,' 'Relation of migration and temperature,' 'Variations in the speed of migration,' 'The unknown.' A careful review of this paper would involve reproducing much of it. Hence, the reader is referred to the Yearbook, access to which should be easy to all. Every local library should possess a copy, or the reprint may be secured through your congressman. L. J.

Comparison of the Provisional Schemes of the Classification of Birds. By R. W. Shufeldt. Reprinted from the American Naturalist, Vol. 38, No. 448.

In this valuable paper Dr. Shufeldt touches upon the various and varied systems of classification of birds in vogue now in different parts of the world, and rightly relegates our A. O. U. classification to the old Curvierian epoch. He shows that the world over there is no unanimity of opinion and practice in the limitation of the larger groups nor of the characters which should be assigned to the groups above species. He sees no immediate light for a uniform world classification, but concludes that only more exact knowledge of bird structure and general morphology will bring about any material improvement in the situation. Meanwhile we may hope that our A. O. U. committee may be working along broad lines, looking toward this greatly needed world uniformity. L. J.

The Economic Value of the Bob-white. By Sylvester D. Judd, Ph. D. Reprint from Yearbook of Department of Agriculture for 1903.

Dr. Judd proves that Bob-white is not at all destructive to any sort of crops, but does great good in destroying enormous quantities of injurious weed seeds and insects. It possesses distinct æsthetical value in addition to its value as a food. He concludes that it may be encouraged to increase to such numbers that there will always be a surplus in the open seasons, thus permitting legitimate sport for those so inclined, while not endangering other interests. We heartily commend the paper to every person who may have the slightest interest in the bird.

L. J.

The Destruction of Birds by the Elements in 1903-04. Special Report, by Edward Howe Forbush, Wareham, Mass. Ornithologist to the State Board of Agriculture. From the fifty-first annual report of the Massachusetts state board of agriculture.

This paper is chiefly concerned with the discussion of the effect of the unusually severe winter and the following wet spring upon birds in